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Aiming to improve the future of health care in Lake County, Condell Medical Center is teaming up with Rosalind Franklin University to give aspiring physicians a shot at participating in clinical training alongside practicing doctors.

"These students will not only benefit from their experience and training at Condell, but will also help contribute to our mission of providing the best care possible to the people of Lake County," Condell President Dennis Millirons said Tuesday. "In the future, these students will be leaders and innovators in health care and within our communities."

Beginning in January, four students are expected to work in the surgery department with doctors on their rounds, hospital officials said. And as the training continues, their responsibility is expected to increase.

Both parties hope that the new affiliation will lead to a greater presence of students at Condell and in some cases provide full-time training and clinical opportunities in the future. However, it is not the first time the Libertyville hospital and the North Chicago college have collaborated.

Several years ago, students participated in rotations with doctors during their rounds at the hospital.

The students also worked with doctors in the areas of family practice, internal medicine, general surgery and neurology.

"Hopefully, the new partnership will allow Rosalind Franklin students to stay within the county to get the training and experience they require," said U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-Highland Park. "Local residents pursuing health-care careers will have the opportunity to receive an education and the training needed in our own county."

And Rosalind Franklin officials were pleased that their students have an opportunity to gain experience outside the classroom.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to become a partner in education with Condell," said Dr. Arthur Ross, vice president of medical affairs at Rosalind Franklin University. We look forward to the collaboration continuing for a long time."